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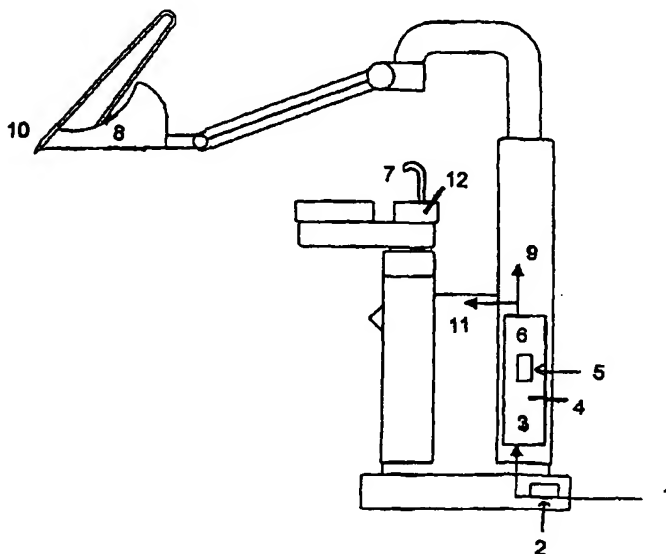
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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): ADEPT TECHNOLOGY A/S [DK/DK]; Metalvej 2, DK-6000 Kolding (DK).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): NAPPER, David [DK/DK]; Adept Technology A/S, Metalvej 2, DK-6000 Kolding (DK). PEDERSEN, Henry, Lund [DK/DK]; Adept Technology A/S, Metalvej 2, DK-6000 Kolding (DK). RUBEN-PETERSEN, Lene [DK/DK]; Adept Technology A/S, Metalvej 2, DK-6000 Kolding (DK).
- Published:
- with international search report
 - before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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(54) Title: DENTAL INSTRUMENT CLEANSING APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A dental unit water line (DUWL) monitoring and maintenance apparatus, for monitoring a DUWL. The apparatus comprises cleansing means attached to the DUWL for cleansing the fluid passing therethrough. Control means controls the cleansing means associated with the water line. Monitoring means monitors the operation of the dental unit by a dentist in use and storing data related to that operation. A timer times and records data relating to both periods of dental unit activity and inactivity, wherein, in use, the control means operates to receive data from the monitoring means and the timer and, based upon that data and reference data controls the operation of the water line to control flow of fluid through that DUWL and controls the cleanser to control the overall cleansing procedures associated with both the dental unit and associated DUWL.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | WO 96/29098 A (DISEL) 26 September 1996 (1996-09-26) the whole document ---- | 1 |
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| A | EP 0 233 847 A (CASTELLINI) 26 August 1987 (1987-08-26) claims 7,8,10 ----- | 1 |

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Raybould, B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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| | | | EP 0233847 A2 | 26-08-1987 |
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